WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An organic electroluminescent device comprising an organic electroluminescent element and a polarized-light scattering film which comprises a light-transmitting resin and dispersedly contained therein minute regions differing from the light-transmitting resin in birefringent characteristics and in which the difference in refractive index between the minute regions and the light-transmitting resin in the axis direction in which a linearly polarized light has a maximum transmittance, Δn^1, is smaller than 0.03 and that in a direction perpendicular to the Δn^1 direction, Δn^2, is from 0.03 to 0.5, the light produced by the organic electroluminescent element being emitted from the device through the polarized-light scattering film.

2. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1, wherein the polarized-light scattering film constitutes an electrode substrate for the organic electroluminescent element or is superposed on the electrode substrate.

3. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1, wherein the minute regions of the polarized-light scattering film comprise a thermoplastic resin which has a glass transition temperature of 50°C or higher and shows a nematic liquid-crystal phase in a range of temperatures lower than the glass transition temperature of the light-transmitting resin.

4. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1, wherein the minute regions of the polarized-light scattering film which are dispersedly contained in the light-transmitting

resin are formed by phase separation and have a Δn^2-direction length of from 0.5 to 50 μm.

5. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1, wherein the light-transmitting resin of the polarized-light scattering film has a deformation-under-load temperature of 80°C or higher and a glass transition temperature of 110°C or higher.

6. A polarizing surface light source comprising the organic electroluminescent device of claim 1, which has an illuminating planar surface and emits a polarized light.

7. The polarizing surface light source of claim 6, which has at least one of a polarizing film and a retardation film on the light emission side or opposite side of the organic electroluminescent device.

8. The polarizing surface light source of claim 7, wherein the axis of transmission of the polarizing film or the axis of retardation of the retardation film is parallel or perpendicular to the Δn^2 direction of the polarized-light scattering film.

9. The polarizing surface light source of claim 6, which has on the light emission side at least one of a light diffuser film and a lens sheet each having the property of maintaining polarization.

10. A liquid-crystal display which comprises the polarizing surface light source of claim 6 and a liquid-crystal cell disposed on the light emission side of the light source.